



The Emerging Young Leader Award is designed to recognize established and future leaders among recent William Penn University alumni. Standards for recognition include one or more of the following: demonstrated leadership capability, substantial indication of a commitment to service of others, demonstration of potential for leadership/distinction in the long term, and a substantial commitment to William Penn University and its mission. The award is open to all alumni who are within their first 10 years of graduating from William Penn University. This will be the first year for this award.

Melisa Wink, William Penn University Class of 2012, knows what it means to garner education, experience, and achievements in her chosen field. Starting out at William Penn University in 2008, Wink procured her Bachelors of Arts in Pre-law, American History and American Government. While at Penn, she maintained a 3.9 cumulative GPA and made the President's List. She was also a member of Alpha Chi Honor Society and Phi Alpha Theta. Wink was the Dana M. Atkins Award recipient for senior athlete with the highest GPA, and she also served as President for the Student Government Association, a President's Diplomat, Campus Student Ambassador, and Varsity Soccer Captain. Her education did not end at Penn however, as she presently attends George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, Virginia. She is a Juris Doctorate Candidate for the Class of 2018 and her cumulative GPA puts her in the top 25 percent of her class with a 3.54.

Wink also has extensive experience in the United States Navy. In July 2012, she served in cryptologic technician collection as Second Class Petty Officer and then served as a legal assistant for the Navy in 2014. In August 2015, she was one selected out of many applicants to receive a fully-funded law degree and be commissioned into the U.S. Navy JAG Corps.

Wink has two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals (2013, 2015), and also has served as Vice President of the Enlisted Junior Sailor Organization. Additionally, she's also served as a Senior Member of the Naval District Washington Funeral Honors Support Detail and Assistant Command Fitness Leader.

Wink is also no stranger to volunteer work, as she has dedicated over 180 hours to coaching youth soccer, developing basic fundamentals in soccer, leadership, and teamwork for the Arlington Soccer Association.

Wink has proven she is an ethically-strong and driven leader with proven success through her education at William Penn University, as well as through U.S. Naval training and achievements at past commands. Her ardent attention to detail and ability to think critically when confronted with challenges makes her a true leader.

Congratulations, Melisa. Your demonstrated leadership capabilities and service to our nation make you a deserving recipient of the Emerging Young Leader Award for 2016.